

said upper surface of said sections being of soft resilient material and being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user;

said inner sole including at least 80 of said resilient sections;

said sections being hexagonal in shape and having a linear extent less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch ; and

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

49. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said upper surface of said sections being of soft resilient materials and being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user;

said inner sole including at least 80 of said resilient sections; and

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

REMARKS

Initially, we wish to express appreciation for the telephone interview which was courteously granted by Examiner Patterson on Tuesday, September 3, 2002.

We also note that we are prepared to promptly file appropriate papers for a Request for Continued Examination.

In the course of the interview, claims 48 and 49 were discussed in detail. In these discussions it was suggested that the following limitation be included in claims 48 and 49, instead of the final paragraph in claims 48 and 49:

"said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along."

It is noted that this limitation substantially paraphrases the language from the specification at column 13, lines 12 through 15.

It is further noted that the word sway is defined in Websters Collegiate Dictionary as "to swing slowly and rhythmically back and forth from a base or pivot". In our case, of course, as the user walks, the sections sway back and forth, with the base or bottom of each section serving as the base about which the sections sway or swing.

On an initial basis it is understood that the Examiner considered this new limitation favorably as being drawn directly from the specification.

It is further noted that the references have inserts or sections which are relatively flat, and therefore can not have the swaying action referenced in this proposed limitation.

Applicant has accordingly amended all of the presently pending independent claims to include this limitation set out and quoted hereinabove.

In addition, the claims have been amended to avoid the other 35 USC 112 rejections. Specifically, claim 39 has been amended to state that the footgear has a heel/ankle portion that extends partially up the heel and ankle area, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. In claims 42 and 43 the word "surfaces" has been replaced by "parts" with reference to parts 46, 48, 32, 34 for example.

In the interview, the matter of the height of the inserts was discussed, and it was noted that the passage on column 13, lines 35 and 36 refers to a "preferred embodiment", and the specification states that "Larger or smaller removable sections may be employed (Col. 13, lines 32 and 33)". Also, many of the figures of the drawings show the height of the sections to be equal to or even slightly less than the lateral extent of the sections (see Fig. 6).

For the convenience of the Examiner, an enlarged print of the definition of "sway" from Webster's Collegiate Dictionary is attached to this amendment.

It is noted that the final Rejection was mailed on June 26, 2002. In the interview with Examiner Patterson, she suggested that the present Amendment following Final Rejection be FAXED to her, and that she expected that she would be able to consider the matter within about ten days.

After such consideration it would be appreciated if Examiner Patterson would telephone the undersigned.

It is again noted that we are prepared to make a formal Request for Continued Examination, particularly if the claims as amended are considered to be allowable.

We wish to again thank Examiner Patterson for discussing these claim matters with the undersigned. We note in passing that the present construction has enjoyed unusual success, as indicated by Declarations previously in the record; and we believe that this is a result of the design under consideration.

Again, the thorough consideration given to this case by Examiner is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to hearing from her within a couple of weeks.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attached: Definition of "sway"

ADDENDUM PAGES

33. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, said footgear having a sole area extending substantially for the entire area underlying the foot of a user comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole extending substantially over the entire sole area mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable resilient sections having lower surfaces which are mounted within said footgear and said sections together form a substantially smooth surface for engagement by the foot;

means for independently modifying support of the foot provided at each section location;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections comprising substantially all of said inner sole and extending over substantially all of said sole area;

wherein said resilient sections each comprise at least three layers of progressively different softness and resiliency, with the softest and most resilient layer being closest to the foot; and

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

34. Footgear as defined in claim 33 wherein said footgear is a shoe.

35. Footgear as defined in claim 33 wherein said footgear further comprises a heel portion that extends partially up the heel and ankle area of the user.

36. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, said footgear having a sole area extending substantially for the entire area underlying the foot of a user, comprising:

an outer sole,

an inner sole extending substantially over the entire sole area mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of removable resilient sections that are removable mounted in said footgear and that are arranged in a grid pattern said removable

sections having lower surfaces which are removable secured within said footgear and said sections together forming a substantially smooth surface for engagement by the foot said sections being individually removable from said footgear to provide localized relief to selected areas of the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent to one another to form said grid, with substantially no space in between said sections except when at least one of said sections has been removed;

said grid of resilient sections comprising substantially all of said inner sole and extending substantially over the entire sole area;

wherein said resilient sections each comprise at least three layers of progressively different softness and resiliency, with the softest and most resilient layer being closest to the foot; and

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

37. (Twice Amended) A pad for footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, said pad having a sole area extending for substantially the entire area underlying the foot of a user, comprising:

an underlying flexible sheet and an upper resilient inner sole member extending over and being removably secured to said underlying flexible sheet, said upper resilient inner sole member having a substantially uniform thickness and extending substantially over the entire sole area;

said upper resilient inner sole portion being composed of a plurality of resilient sections, said sections being removably secured on their lower surfaces to said underlying flexible sheet and said sections together forming a substantially smooth surface for engagement by the foot, said sections being individually removable to provide localized pressure relief to selected areas of the foot;

wherein said resilient sections each comprise at least three layers of progressively different softness and resiliency, with the softest and most resilient layer being closest to the foot;

whereby a relief zone corresponding to an afflicted zone of a foot is provided when one or more of said sections is removed; and

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

38. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, said footgear having a sole area extending substantially for the entire area underlying the foot of a user comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole extending substantially over the entire sole area mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are mounted within said footgear and said sections together form a substantially smooth surface for engagement by the foot;

means for independently modifying support of the foot provided at each section location;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid;

said grid of resilient sections comprising substantially all of said inner sole and extending over substantially all of said sole area;

wherein said resilient sections comprise a material that resists compression-set; and

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

39. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear, and said sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said sections having a height and width, with the height of said sections being at least equal to the width thereof, to permit swaying of said sections, thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of the foot;

said footgear having a heel/ankle portion that extends partially [only part way] up the heel and ankle area of the user;

said footgear including flaps for holding the foot into the footgear, said flaps extending over at least a portion of the upper surface of the foot from both sides of the foot;

arrangements for holding said flaps together to hold the user's foot into the footgear;

said flaps leaving an opening at the front of the footgear so that the toes of the user may extend out beyond the flaps while still resting on said inner sole;

said upper surface of said sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user; and

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

40. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot as defined in claim 39 wherein said inner sole includes an underlying flexible sheet to which said sections are removably secured; and said sections being secured to said sheet, and said inner sole being secured into said shoe by hook and loop type fastening arrangements.

41. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot as defined in claim 39 wherein said sections are softer and more resilient adjacent said upper surface as compared with the lower portion of said sections adjacent said lower surfaces.

42. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along;

said footgear having a closed heel/ankle portion;

said footgear including upper footgear parts [surfaces] for holding the foot into the footgear, said upper footgear parts [surfaces] extending over at least a portion of the upper surface of the foot from both sides of the foot; and

said upper surface of said resilient sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user.

43. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear, and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and
said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;
said footgear having a closed heel/ankle portion;
said footgear including upper footgear surfaces for holding the foot into the footgear, said
upper footgear surfaces extending over at least a portion of the upper surface of the foot from
both sides of the foot;
arrangements for holding said upper footgear surfaces together to hold the user's foot into
the footgear;
said upper surface of said resilient sections being directly exposed for direct engagement
with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user; and
[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being
sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface
of a patient's foot.]
said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway
laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing
shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

44. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a
plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said
independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably
mounted within said footgear, and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an
upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said footgear having a closed heel/ankle portion;

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being
sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface
of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along; and

said upper surface of said sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user.

45. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said upper surface of said sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user; and

[said resilient sections having a substantial vertical extent or height, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally thereby reducing shear forces on the lower surface of a patient's foot.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

46. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot as defined in claim 45 wherein said inner sole includes an underlying flexible sheet to which said sections are removably secured; and said sections being secured to said sheet, and said inner sole being secured into said footgear by hook and loop type fastening arrangements.

47. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot as defined in claim 45 wherein said sections are softer and more resilient adjacent said upper surface as compared with the lower portion of said sections adjacent said lower surfaces.

48. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said upper surface of said sections being of soft resilient material and being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user;

said inner sole including at least 80 of said resilient sections;

said sections being hexagonal in shape and having a linear extent less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch [and being substantially equal to one-half inch]; and

[said sections being individually mobile and having a height and a width, with the height being sufficient that each section can sway laterally, and with the height being at least substantially equal to or greater than the width thereof.]

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

49. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form an upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said upper surface of said sections being of soft resilient materials and being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user;

said inner sole including at least 80 of said resilient sections: and
[said sections being individually mobile and having a height and a width, with the height
being sufficient that each section can sway laterally.]
said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway
laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing
shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

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Re: Applicant: Tracy E. Grim et al.
Serial No.: 09/592,462
Filed: June 9, 2000
Title: FOOTGEAR WITH PRESSURE RELIEF ZONES
Examiner: Examiner Marie Patterson Group: 3728

Enclosed:

(1) Response to Office Action Dated June 26, 2002 per Telephone Interview of 9/4/02
with Examiner

21 pages including cover sheet

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LA: 326753 v01 09/05/2002

salowen, fr. OE *swelgan*; akin to OHG *swelgan* to take through the mouth and esophagus into envelop or take in as if by swallowing: ABSORB at question, protest, or resentment 4: to take to keep from expressing or showing: REPRESS ds) indistinctly ~ vi 1: to receive something through the mouth and esophagus 2: to perform the act of swallowing something esp. under emotional-low-er \ 'swäl-ə-wər\ n

passage connecting the mouth to the stomach wallowing 3 a: an act of swallowing b: an swallowed at one time 4: an aperture in a between the sheave and frame through which the

tail, -tāl, -ə\ n 1: a deeply forked and tapering 2: TAILCOAT 3: any of various large butterfly with the border of the hind wing produced embling a tail — swal-low-tailed \ 'swäl-ō-

wäl-ō-wert, -ə, -wō(ə)r\ n 1: CELANDINE 1 plants of the milkweed family: as a: SOMA ining vine (*Cynanchum nigrum*) whose root has etic, cathartic, and diuretic

n [Hindi *svāmī*, fr. Skt *svāmin* owner, lord, fr. a Hindu ascetic or religious teacher; *specif*: a a religious order — used as a title 2: PUNDIT 'swōmp\ n, often attrib [alter. of ME *sompe*, ass; akin to MHG *sumpf* marsh, Gk *somphos* spongy land saturated and sometimes partially covered with water 2: a tract of swamp — ē, 'swōm-\ adj

submerge with or as if with water: INUNDATE moving underbrush and debris ~ vi: to become

a vehicle used to negotiate swampy terrain: as a tractor b: a flat-bottomed boat driven by an

-per, 'swōm-\ n 1: an inhabitant of swampy eral assistant: HELPER wām-pē-nēs, 'swōm-\ n: the quality or state of

and\ n: SWAMP

pl swans often attrib [ME, fr. OE; akin to MHG ind — more at SOUND] 1 pl also swan: any of lled long-necked mostly pure white aquatic birds related to but larger than the geese that walk strongly when once started, and are graceful person or thing suggesting a swan because of its or fabled power of melody when dying 3 cap 1 Cygnus

1; swanning: to wander idly: DALLY

d; swan-ning [perh. euphemism for swear] dial

small boat usu. for children or sightseers pedaled ho sits aft in a large model of a swan ont dive executed with the head back, back arched, sideways and then brought together above the traight line with the body as the diver enters the

a-hard\ n: one that tends swans

adj [MLG or MD *swanc* supple; akin to OHG] *Scot*: full of life or energy: ACTIVE

fr. MHG *swanken* to sway; akin to MD *swanc* v off: SWAGGER

ETENTIOUSNESS, SWAGGER 2: ELEGANCE

ty \ 'swan-kē\ adj 1: characterized by showy dis- OUS 2: fashionably elegant: SMART — swank- — swank-i-ness \ -kē-nēs\ n

n-(ə)rē\ n: a place where swans are bred or kept wānz-daūn\ n 1: the soft downy feathers of the as trimming on articles of dress 2: a heavy cotton ick nap on the face made with satcen weave n-skin\ n 1: the skin of a swan with the down or 2: any of various fabrics resembling flannel and or surface

a song formerly thought to be uttered by a dying small consequence or final act or pronouncement

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1swarth \ 'swō(ə)rth\ n [ME, fr. OE *swearth* skin]: SWARD

2swarth n: SWATH 1b

3swarth adj [alter. of *swart*]: SWARTHY

swarth-i-ness \ 'swōr-thē-nēs, -thē-\ n: the quality or state of being swarthy

swarthy \ 'swōr-thē, -thē\ adj [alter. of obs. *swarty*, fr. *swart*]: being of a dark color, complexion, or cast syn see DUSKY

Swart-kranz ape-man \ 'sfärt-krän(t)s-\ n [*Swartkranz*, region in So. Africa]: an australopithecine (*Homo erectus capensis*) with a distinctly human jaw and teeth

1swash \ 'swāsh, 'swōsh\ n [prob. imit.] 1 a: a body of splashing water b: a narrow channel of water lying within a sandbank or between a sandbank and the shore 2: a dashing of water against or upon something 3: a bar over which the sea washes 4: SWAGGER

2swash vi 1: BLUSTER, SWAGGER 2: to make violent noisy movements 3: to move with a splashing sound ~ vi: to cause to splash

3swash adj [obs. E *swash* slanting]: having one or more strokes ending in an extended flourish (the ~ letters *ARNP*)

swash-buck-le \ -bək-əl\ vi [back-formation fr. *swashbuckler*]: to play the swashbuckler

swash-buck-ler \ -bək-lər\ n [*2swash* + *buckler*] 1: a boasting soldier or blustering daredevil: BRAVO 2: a novel or drama dealing with a swashbuckler

swash-buck-ling \ -bək-(ə)lɪŋ\ adj [*swashbuckler*] 1: acting in the manner of a swashbuckler 2: characteristic of, marked by, or done by swashbucklers

swash-er \ 'swāsh-ər, 'swōsh-\ n: SWASHBUCKLER

swas-ti-ka \ 'swās-ti-kə also swā-'stē-\ n [Skt *svastika*, fr. *svasti* welfare, fr. *su-* well + *asti* he is]: a symbol or ornament in the form of a Greek cross with the ends of the arms extended at right angles all in the same rotary direction



swastika

1swat \ 'swāt\ vb swat-ted; swat-ting [E dial., to squat, alter. of E *squat*]: to hit with a quick hard blow syn see STRIKE — swat-ter n

2swat n 1: a powerful or crushing blow 2: a long hit in baseball; esp: HOME RUN

swatch \ 'swäch\ n [origin unknown] 1 a: a sample piece (as of fabric) or a collection of samples b: a characteristic specimen 2: PATCH 3: a small collection

swath \ 'swāth, 'swōth\ or swathe \ 'swāth, 'swōth, 'swāth\ n [ME, fr. OE *swæth* footstep, trace; akin to MHG *swade* swath] 1 a: the sweep of a scythe or a machine in mowing or the path cut in one course b: a row of cut grain or grass left by a scythe or mowing machine 2: a long broad strip or belt 3: a stroke of or as if of a scythe 4: a space devastated as if by a scythe

1swathe \ 'swāth, 'swōth, 'swāth\ vi [ME *swathen*, fr. OE *swathian*; akin to ON *svatha* to swathe, Lith *svaigri* to become dizzy] 1: to bind, wrap, or swaddle with or as if with a bandage 2: ENVELOP — swath-er n

2swathe \ 'swāth, 'swōth, 'swāth\ or swath \ 'swāth, 'swāth, 'swōth, 'swōth\ n 1: a band used in swathing 2: an enveloping medium

swathing clothes n pl [ME] obs: SWADDLING CLOTHES

swats \ 'swāts\ n pl [prob. fr. OE *swātan*, pl., beer] *Scot*: DRINK; esp: new ale

1sway \ 'swā\ vb [alter. of earlier *sway* to fall, swoon, fr. ME *swayan*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *svelgja* to sway; akin to OE *swathian* to swathe] vi 1 a: to swing slowly and rhythmically back and forth from a base or pivot b: to move gently from an upright to a leaning position 2: to hold sway; act as ruler or governor 3: to fluctuate or veer between one point, position, or opinion and another ~ vi 1 a: to cause to sway: set to swinging, rocking, or oscillating b: to cause to bend downward to one side c: to cause to turn aside: DEFLECT, DIVERT 2 archaic a: WIELD b: GOVERN, RULE 3 a: to cause to vacillate b: to exert a guiding or controlling influence upon 4: to hoist in place (~ up a mast) syn see AFFECT, SWING — sway-er n

2sway n 1: the action or an instance of swaying or of being swayed: an oscillating, fluctuating, or sweeping motion 2: an inclination or deflection caused by or as if by swaying 3 a: a preponderating force or pressure: a controlling influence b: sovereign power: DOMINION c: the ability to exercise influence or authority: DOMINANCE syn see POWER

sway-back \ 'swā-'bak\ n 1: an abnormally hollow condition or sagging of the back found esp. in horses 2: a sagging back — sway-backed \ -bakt\ adj

Swazi \ 'swāz-i\ n, pl Swazi or Swazis 1 a: a Bantu people of Swaziland b: a member of this people 2: a Bantu language of